

1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHIEF OF OPERATIONS.  
SUBJECT: 15 June Report on POW Situation

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1. The following paragraphs summarize the highlights of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee which monitored the processing of 23 repatriated POWs at Valley Forge General Hospital. This report has been submitted to the Secretary of Defense by the Secretary of the Army and is now under consideration in OSD.

2. The report is based on detailed study of 20 of the 23 cases. It concludes that:

a. The Communists did not employ sinister techniques such as drugs, serums, etc., but straight propaganda indoctrination.

b. All 20 POWs collaborated with the Communists -- some willingly; a few under duress.

c. Five are convinced Communists who can never be reclaimed; five are only slightly indoctrinated and can probably be reclaimed; the remaining ten are somewhere in between, and their future is uncertain.

d. In all cases the lack of stabilizing ties -- such as family, religion, or social groups -- seemed to be a factor.

e. The entire group was carefully selected by the Communists in order to include various social, religious, racial, economic, and geographic representation.

f. There is evidence of possible treasonable activity by some of the 20 individuals involved. (G-2, Army, will take appropriate action in this connection.)

g. There is no means of determining the adverse mental effects of indoctrination, if any.

h. The best remedy would seem to be restoration to group life, particularly home and family.

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3. The report recommended that:

a. In the future, water transportation rather than airplanes be used for the return of repatriated POWs, and that the ships be provided with adequate screening and observation facilities.

b. There be no segregation of any groups in the future, and all screening be done as part of the normal processing of repatriated POWs.

c. Repatriates should be returned to normal American life at the soonest possible moment after their return to military control.

d. Future repatriation programs be conducted by a central operational group.

e. Legislation be sought to make all repatriates subject to Military Law one year after the date of their release from military control.

4. Of these five recommendations, the Army concurred in the first three, but non-concurred in the last two for the following reasons:

a. The present departmental organization is adequate to conduct future repatriation programs.

b. Under the present Code of Military Justice, the recommended legislation is unnecessary.

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